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HOUSE BILL 247 By
Williams (Wil)

SENATE BILL 734
By Graves

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 21, relative to transportation of children with special needs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-2114, is amended by deleting subsection (a) in its entirety and by redesignating subsection (b) to be subsection (a).

Section 49-6-2114 is further amended by adding a new subsection (b) as follows:

(b) In addition to the provisions of subsection (a), each school district or other entity transporting either special needs children or medically fragile children shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) Vehicles purchased after July 31, 2000, shall be equipped with working air conditioners and heaters when transporting medically fragile students and students whose medical or developmental status puts them at risk for health problems due to extreme temperatures.

(2) Assure that personnel involved in the transport of medically fragile or other students at higher risk for health or safety concerns receive initial training and ongoing follow-up training to address general and specific health and safety

concerns and procedures to follow in the event of a health or safety situation or emergency.

(3) Have clearly stated policies and procedures for responding to various health and safety situations or emergencies that might arise in the course of transporting students with special needs.

(4) Assure that buses or other vehicles used to transport medically fragile students are equipped or have immediate access to two-way radios, cellular phones or other means of communicating with school and emergency medical services in the event of a health or safety situation or emergency.

(5) Assure that buses or other vehicles used to transport medically fragile or other special needs students are equipped with basic first aid kits and supplies that would be available to drivers or aides to administer interventions prior to the arrival of emergency medical services personnel.

(6) Arrange transportation services so that special needs or medically fragile children have no longer than a one (1) hour ride on each trip.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.